

CARTON AND TWO-PART CARTON BLANK

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to a carton for containing a plurality of similar articles, such as bottles and a means for retaining the bottles within the carton and in particular to a means of accessing the articles.

Cartons for encasing multiple articles are useful for enabling consumers to obtain and transport a desired quantity of individual articles such as soft drinks or other beverages. Such cartons need to be strong enough to support multiple articles, especially if the articles are bottles. It is also desirable for such cartons to be easy to handle and be portable.

It is often desirable for the articles contained within the carton to be displayed and also for the carton to have large areas which can be printed with advertising graphics. It is also often desirable for the articles to be easily accessible and it is also preferable for the articles to be secured in place within the carton, especially if the articles are fragile, for example glass bottles. It is however undesirable for articles to be accessed too easily, for example, before being purchased.

It is also desirable to have a carton which after the contents of the articles have been consumed can be used to return the empty articles to a recycling point.

The present invention seeks to provide a means for displaying the articles or a portion of the articles in combination with an access means for removal of the articles where the access means leaves the carton with sufficient integrity for replacement of articles for the purpose of returning to a recycling point.

Summary of the Invention

According to a first aspect of the invention, a two piece carton for containing a group of similar articles such as bottles, the two piece carton comprising a tray and a cover, wherein the tray comprises panels for providing a bottom wall and opposed end walls of the carton

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which form a first U shaped structure and wherein the cover comprises panels for providing a top wall and downwardly extending opposed side walls of the carton which form a second U shaped structure complementary to the first U shaped structure, in which the top wall is positioned at an elevation lower the upper edges of the end walls, the first and second U-shaped structures together providing a substantially fully enclosed carton.

Preferably the top panel is disposed at an elevation below an upper extremity of either end wall of the carton and/or of either side wall of the carton.

Additionally one U-shaped structure comprises flaps which provide support to the side walls of the other U-shaped structure and additionally a surface to which the side walls of the other U-shaped structure can be secured.

Preferably the top panel of the carton comprises apertures for receiving the articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.

Preferably further comprising at least one reinforced handle aperture being struck from one of said side and end walls of the carton.

Preferably the frangible connection is arranged such that upon removal of the articles, the carton retains sufficient structural integrity to be re-used for returning empty articles.

According to a second aspect of the invention a two part blank for forming two piece a carton for containing a group of similar articles, such as bottles, the blank comprising first and second parts, the first part for forming a tray comprising a bottom panel and opposing end walls for forming a first U-shaped structure, the second part for forming a cover comprising a top panel and opposing side walls for forming a second U-shaped structure that is complementary to the first U-shaped structure, the first and second U-shaped structures are disposed in an opposed relationship when the carton is in a setup condition and wherein the second U shaped structure comprises downwardly extending sidewalls and in the top panel is disposed at an elevation below that of the upper periphery of the end walls.

Preferably the first part comprises flaps for providing support to the side walls of the second part and additionally a surface to which the side walls of the second part can be secured.

Preferably the top panel of the second part is at an elevation below an upper extremity of the end walls of the first part when the carton is in a set-up condition.

Additionally the top panel of the second part comprises apertures for receiving the articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.

According to a third aspect of the invention a carton comprising opposed side walls, opposed end walls and top and bottom panels, wherein a plane of the top panel is lower than an upper edge of either end wall and wherein the carton further comprises handle apertures struck from said end walls.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Exemplary embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1A illustrates a first part for forming a crate style carton according to a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 1B illustrates a second part of a blank for forming a crate style carton according to a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 1C shows a first step in the process for erecting the crate style carton formed from the blanks of Figs. 1A and 1B;

Figure 1D shows a second step in the process for erecting the crate style carton formed from the blanks of Figs. 1A and 1B;

Figure 1E shows a third step in the process for erecting the crate style carton formed from the blanks of Figs. 1A and 1B;

Figure 1F shows the crate style carton formed from the blanks of Figs. 1A and 1B;